

1877MNRAS...37..231H

# MONTHLY NOTICES

OF THE

## ROYAL ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY.

VOL. XXXVII.

MARCH 9, 1877.

No. 5.

PROFESSOR A. CAYLEY, F.R.S., Vice-President, in the Chair.

John Rand Capron, Esq., Guildown, Guildford, Surrey;

Dr. William Evans, Llanerchymedd, Anglesey;

Frank McClean, Esq., M.A., 23 Great George Street, Westminster; and

R. Meldola, Esq., F.C.S., 23 John Street, Bedford Row;

were balloted for and duly elected Fellows of the Society.

### *The Nebula in Orion—Request to Astronomers.*

(Communicated by E. B. Knobel, Esq.)

I am engaged in observations of the central portions of the Nebula of *Orion*, and desire to compare all former drawings, both ancient and modern. I have in my possession the following published drawings of it:—

1656, Huyghens; 1673, Picard; 1731, Mairan; 1742, Long; 1758, Le Gentil (2); 1771, Messier; 1774, W. Herschel; 1779, Lefebvre; 1794, Schroeter; 1797–8, Schroeter (4); 1824, J. Herschel; 1837, J. Herschel; 1837, Lamont; 1839, De Vico; 1841, Rondoni (2); 1847, Lassell; 1848, W. C. Bond (2); 1854, Lassell; 1862, Liaponoff and Struve; 1862, Secchi; 1862, Tempel; 1865, G. P. Bond; 1867, Lord Rosse; 1868, Secchi; 1872, D'Arrest; 1874, Winlock and Trouvelot; 1875, Holden and Trouvelot.

Through the courtesy of the various authors, I have original (unpublished) sketches, or elaborate drawings, made by Cooper (?); Schmidt, 1861 (2); Lassell, 1862; and Trouvelot, 1875.

T

I shall be most grateful for notice of any drawing not mentioned in the above list, whether published or unpublished, or for a reference to unpublished observations of this object, particularly of the central nebulous portions.

EDWARD S. HOLDEN.

*United States Naval Observatory, Washington,*  
1877, January 31.

---

*The Approaching Opposition of Mars—Request to Astronomers.*

M. F. Terby, Doctor of Science, Louvain, Belgium, invites observers, particularly those in the equatorial and southern regions, to make a large number of drawings of the planet *Mars* during the remarkable opposition of the present year, 1877. He recalls to them that he has published a Memoir, entitled "Aréographie, ou étude comparative des Observations faites sur l'aspect de la planète *Mars* depuis Fontana (1636) jusqu'à nos jours," t. xxxix. *Mem. Cour.* (4°) de l'Acad. R. de Belgique. This Memoir contains a large number of questions, which might be answered by the observers in the opposition of 1877; these refer to the principal doubtful points in Mr. Proctor's Chart. M. Terby begs the astronomers who have hitherto kindly communicated to him their observations to send him also their drawings of 1877; he hopes thus to perfect Mr. Proctor's already so excellent chart.

---

*The Dunecht Observatory Publications.*

Mr. Ralph Copeland writes to correct an error occurring in *Monthly Notices*, p. 199, where it is stated that the arrangement and reduction of vol. i. of the Dunecht Observatory Publications were performed by him. Although he is responsible for the general arrangement of the work, yet the whole of the computations were performed by Mr. Robert Copeland, of Manchester.

---

*On Apparent Brightness as an Indication of Distance in Stellar Masses.* By E. J. Stone, M.A., F.R.S., Her Majesty's Astronomer, Cape of Good Hope.

In the important investigations of the motion of the solar system in space by O. Struve and Airy, the distribution of the stellar distances has been made in accordance with the views of W. Struve. The correctness of these views has, from time to time,\* been questioned. It may have been shown that some